

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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### **ALEUTIAN ISLANDS BLACK ROCKFISH 2018 GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVEL ANNOUNCED**

The Aleutian Islands black rockfish *Sebastes melanops* fishery opens January 1, 2018 in state waters of the Aleutian Islands District of the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Area and the Western District of the South Alaska Peninsula Area.

The 2018 guideline harvest level (GHL) for Aleutian Islands black rockfish fishery is **90,000 pounds**, whole fish weight. The GHL is distributed between three sections: Akutan, Unalaska and Western sections. In the Akutan and Unalaska sections the GHL is further divided among several subsections to distribute fishing effort. GHLs by section and subsection are listed below. Unalaska and Akutan sections and their subsections are shown in Figure 1. The fishery will close when section and subsection GHLs are achieved. The maximum black rockfish bycatch allowance in other groundfish fisheries is 20%, by weight, of directed groundfish species or halibut on board the vessel. Bycatch of dark rockfish *Sebastes ciliates* is 20% by weight of directed groundfish species or halibut on board the vessel.

The Aleutian Islands black rockfish fishery is non-exclusive and limited to mechanical jig and hand troll gear. Fishermen using mechanical jigging machines are limited to five machines per vessel. A vessel owner or operator must register with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to fishing. Fishermen are required to complete and submit a logbook to ADF&G for all fishing activity. Logbooks will be provided at the time of registration. Additionally, fishermen are asked to notify ADF&G prior to delivery to facilitate dockside sampling.

State waters south of Akutan Island between 165° 41' W longitude and 165° 46' W longitude (the south end of Green Bight to Talus Point) will remain closed to retention of black rockfish (denoted in Figure 1).

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The GHL for each section and subsection are as follows:

Akutan Section

Akutan Island Subsection	10,000
Akun Island Subsection	10,000
Rootok Island Subsection	5,600
<u>Tigalda Island Subsection</u>	<u>9,400</u>
TOTAL	35,000 pounds

Unalaska Section

Unalaska Bay/Wislow Subsection	3,000
Cape Kalekta/Unalga Island Subsection	3,600
West Unalaska Subsection	12,850
South Unalaska Subsection	12,300
<u>Beaver Inlet/Sedanka Island Subsection</u>	<u>3,250</u>
TOTAL	35,000 pounds

Western Section 20,000 pounds

Descriptions of sections are as follows:

Akutan Section

Akutan Island Subsection:	State waters adjacent to Akutan Island.
Akun Island Subsection:	State waters adjacent to Akun Island.
Rootok Island Subsection:	State waters adjacent to Rootok and Avatanak Islands.
Tigalda Island Subsection:	State waters adjacent to Tigalda and Ugamak Islands.

Unalaska Section

Unalaska Bay/Wislow Subsection:	State waters between Koriga Point and Cape Kalekta.
Cape Kalekta/Unalga Subsection:	State waters between Cape Kalekta and a line running due east from Brundage Point at 53° 55.89' N lat.
West Unalaska Subsection:	State waters between Konets Head and Koriga Point.
South Unalaska Subsection:	State waters between 168° W long and the south end of Udagak Strait at 166° 16.17' W long.
Beaver Inlet/Sedanka I. Subsection:	State waters south of 53° 55.89' N lat including waters of Beaver Inlet, Egg and Sedanka Islands to 166° 16.17' W long.

Western Section:

All state waters of the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea west of 168° W long.

For further information please contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dutch Harbor at (907) 581-1239.

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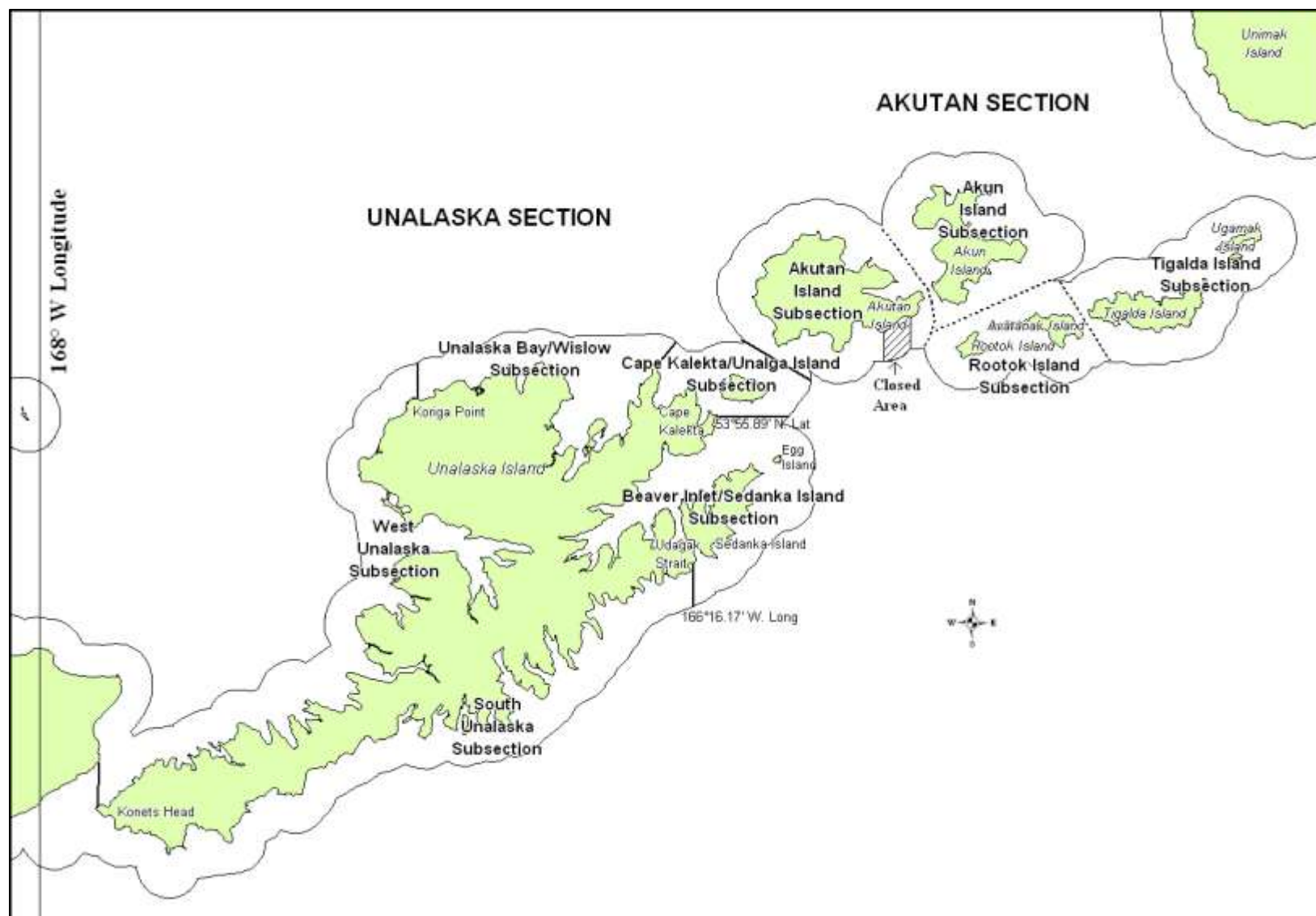


Figure 1. Unalaska and Akutan sections and subsections of the Aleutian Islands black rockfish fishery.